

These very small businesses represented 65 percent of all exporting companies in 1997.

Despite these encouraging statistics, there is still more work that needs to be done. Even though the number of small business exporters tripled, they form less than one percent of all small businesses in the United States. Even among these cutting-edge firms, nearly two-thirds of small business exporters sold to just one foreign market in 1997. In fact, 76 percent of small business exporters sold less than \$250,000 worth of goods abroad. In other words, these are "casual" exporters. The key is to encourage more small businesses to enter the trade arena and then to prod "casual" small business exporters into becoming more active. If we were able to move in this direction, it could boost our exports by several billion dollars.

With the growth of the Internet economy, I am optimistic that we can move in this direction. However, we need to insure that all our government agencies are up to the challenge so they can help increase exports from the small business community.

While most of the trade focus in the Federal Government for small business is on export promotion, the office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) can continue to play a vital role in formulating trade policy beneficial to small business. I saw this during the hearing my Small Business Exports Subcommittee held last May examining how Permanent Normal Trade Relations (PNTR) would help small business exporters. I heard first-hand from small business exporters how different aspects of the United States-China World Trade Organization (WTO) Accession Agreement, which was negotiated by USTR, would specifically benefit their company's prospects for growth.

The next "round" of global trade talks could even have more positive benefits for small business exporters, primarily in the areas of trade facilitation. Topics of discussion under this umbrella are streamlining trade dispute resolution procedures; reforming the documentation and filing procedures for patent and trademark protection; opening the public procurement process by foreign governments to small businesses; enhancing transparency in international tax, finance, customs procedures, and trade rules; and exploring means to internationalize the recognition of technical certification of professionals. How these issues get resolved will be of key interest to small business exporters.

In addition, this Assistant USTR for small business can play an outreach and advocacy role throughout the United States to solicit input from the small business community. Many small business exporters find our government bureaucracy very mystifying and complicated. Many times, small business exporters do not know who to ask a trade policy question. They get bounced or referred to one person after another. Having one person in charge who is empowered to go beyond the Washington Beltway to listen to small business may help alleviate this problem.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the Small Business Export Enhancement Act of 2000.

#### TRIBUTE TO MARSHALL SPACE FLIGHT CENTER IN HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA

**HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 11, 2000*

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize tomorrow's 40th anniversary of the dedication by president Dwight Eisenhower of the George C. Marshall Space Flight Center.

Since the Marshall Center opened its doors for business under the direction of Dr. Wernher von Braun on July 1, 1960, it has played a pivotal role in our Nation's space program. Led by the von Braun Rocket Team, the Marshall Center developed the Mercury-Redstone vehicle that put America's first astronaut, Alan B. Shepard, into sub-orbital space in 1961. Building upon this firm foundation, Marshall and its partners boldly responded to President Kennedy's challenge to land a man on the Moon by pioneering the development of the colossal Saturn V rocket. The Marshall Center also designed and developed the Lunar Roving Vehicle, used to carry our Apollo astronauts on their journey around the then-unknown surface of our Moon. These and other pioneering accomplishments make up a strong heritage that has made Marshall world-renowned for transportation to, from, and in space.

At a time, Mr. Speaker, when the International Space Station is being constructed 250 miles overhead, it is proper to remember that the first American manned space station, Skylab, was managed at the Marshall Center. Lessons learned from Skylab about long-term human presence in space prove today to be invaluable as we enter an era of unprecedented discovery onboard the ISS. Continuing this tradition of excellence, Marshall and its industry partners have successfully designed, developed, assembled, integrated, tested, and delivered a number of critical U.S. pressurized ISS elements such as Unity, Destiny, and the Habitation and Node 2 modules.

In 1972, following the announcement by President Nixon of plans to develop America's reusable space shuttle, Marshall again accepted its Nation's challenge by designing the shuttle's main engines, solid rocket boosters and external tank. Today, Marshall is responsible for the management of these critical shuttle systems, and is committed to continually improving their reliability, safety, and performance.

Before becoming a reality, Marshall was visualized as "the only self-contained organization in the nation, which was capable of conducting the development of a space vehicle from the conception of the idea, through production of hardware, testing and launching operations." They have exceeded these expectations by not only seeing vehicles through all stages of development, but also by broadening their activities through the scientific success of the Hubble Space Telescope, the Compton Gamma-Ray Observatory, and the Chandra X-ray Observatory three of NASA's great space observatories. The landmark discoveries made by their state-of-the-art scientific instruments have rewritten the science

text-books that our children will use for years to come.

In addition to the many world-class facilities at Marshall that contribute to its dynamic engineering test environment, the Marshall Space Flight Center has the distinction of hosting five National Historic Landmarks as designated by the U.S. Department of the Interior. These Historic Landmarks serve as monuments to our cornerstone role in America's space program, and include the Redstone Test Stand, the Propulsion and Structural Test Facility, the Saturn V Dynamic Test Stand, the Neutral Buoyancy Simulator, and one of one three surviving Saturn V rockets.

Mr. Speaker, while I stand here today to commemorate the legacy of Marshall's historic past, I also stand to celebrate the promise of its bright future. As NASA's Center of Excellence for Space Propulsion, Marshall serves as a national resource for research and development of advanced, revolutionary propulsion technologies. Marshall has been tasked to develop propulsion systems that will lower the costs of access to space, opening the doors of space to our entire Nation. The Marshall Center's future vision includes propulsion technologies that will lead to rapid travel throughout and even beyond our solar system. And as NASA's lead center for the development of our nation's future space transportation systems, Marshall will vigorously pursue the research, technological innovations, design and integration of tomorrow's space transportation systems necessary to maintain the United States as a space, military, and economic superpower for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, it is important to recognize the source of Marshall's success. It is the talented and highly motivated Marshall workforce, and its industry and academic partners spread across this nation, who have taken us down this path of exceptional achievement. And I believe that our nation's space program will enjoy many more successful missions of discovery while guided by the dedication, creativity, and professionalism of the Marshall's employees and partners.

So today, with enormous pride, I extend my sincerest congratulations to the George C. Marshall Space Flight Center, its employees, and its partners on an exceptional 40-year legacy that occupies a unique position in the history of our space program—a program that has profoundly positioned America first among nations as we begin this 21st century, and promises to enhance the quality of life for ourselves and those who follow us.

#### CHILD SUPPORT DISTRIBUTION ACT OF 2000

SPEECH OF

**HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 7, 2000*

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, I stand today in support of H.R. 4678, the Child Support Distribution Act. This bill would help poor children escape poverty, strengthen families, and enhance welfare reform by making improvements to the child support system.

These improvements would allow more of the child-support collected from noncustodial parents to reach the children on whose behalf these payments are made. When fully implemented, this bill would increase income to children and their custodial parents by over \$1 billion a year. In addition the bill simplifies child support distribution rules, and promotes responsible fatherhood. Passage of this bill will result in several important benefits to families by distributing more support to families to help them maintain employment and reduce welfare receipt, simplifying state child support systems and providing needed services to low-income parents to help them support and raise their children.

The bill ensures that once a family has left welfare, that family has the first claim on all child support paid by the father. Under current law, child support collected is first applied to taxes owed to the state. Child support payments begin to repay debts owed to custodial families only after the debt to the state has been completely repaid. The changes proposed in the Child Support Distribution Act would help families that have left welfare to stay off welfare by providing additional resources to them at a time when they are likely to be vulnerable to economic hardship. Child support is an important income supplement for low-income working families. According to the Center for Law and Social Policy, when single-mother families receive child support, their poverty rate drops from 33 to 22 percent.

The Child Support Distribution Act would also dramatically simplify rules governing the assignment and distribution of child support payments. According to the National Governors' Association, "The complexity of current child support distribution rules creates a costly administrative burden for both states and the Federal Government." The current rules are expensive to administer, and difficult for child support staff to explain and for parents to understand. The Child Support Distribution Act addresses these issues and provides funding to community-based and state programs working directly with low-income custodial parents to help them support their children financially and emotionally. This legislation gives funding preferences to community programs that partner with domestic violence programs and child support agencies.

This bill includes a number of complementary provisions that are beneficial to low-income children and families. Several provisions in the bill are intended to help low-income fathers improve their capacity to support their children financially and emotionally. The changes the bill makes in the child support system would allow a larger portion of the child support that low-income fathers pay to benefit their children. These provisions represent an investment in stronger families that should reduce poverty among these children, help low-income parents receive services they need, and strengthen children's ties with their fathers, who will be better able to see the result of their hard-earned contributions when they pay child support. These changes should make child support easier to administer and empower states to integrate the collection and distribution of child support with their own welfare reform strategies.

I strongly support H.R. 4678, the Child Support Distribution Act and urge my colleagues to do the same.

IN HONOR OF ARMANDO  
TALAVERA, WADO RADIO  
SPORTS COMMENTATOR

### HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 11, 2000*

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Armando Talavera for his career as a sports commentator, covering Major League Baseball for Spanish language radio.

Mr. Talavera was born in Caracas, Venezuela. He currently lives in Queens, New York, with his wife, Linda, and his two children, Carlos and Adrienne.

He began his career as a sports commentator in 1972, and has covered the All Star Game and World Series since 1975. He has also covered New York Mets and Yankees baseball, the NBA finals, the past 11 Super Bowls, Major League Soccer, the World Cup, and the Caribbean World Series.

Because of his exceptional abilities, Mr. Talavera was hired by WADO Radio (1280 AM) in 1993, and has been an integral part of the station ever since. He covered sporting events initially, and later was the host of a four-hour talk show called "WADO Deportivo."

For his contributions to journalism, and for his service to Hispanic Americans, I commend Mr. Talavera. I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring him today.

### CELEBRATING THE 35TH YEAR OF THE JERRY LEWIS MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY TELETHON

### HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 11, 2000*

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like to offer praise today for a man with whom I am proud to share a name, a man who has shown the world for 35 years that Americans will rally in huge numbers to help those in need. I am speaking, of course, of my friend Jerry Lewis, the consummate entertainer, and his world-renowned telethon for the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

Since 1965, Jerry Lewis has taken to the airwaves to raise funds to fight neuromuscular disease, setting a standard for fund-raising that has become a part of our culture. In the 2000 version of the event on September 3-4, Lewis and his "Jerry's Kids" and a multitude of entertainers raised a record \$54.1 million in pledges. The MDA will operate 183 offices and research centers nationwide with these and other private donations—the organization does not request or receive government funding.

The diseases combated by Jerry Lewis and MDA—40 of them, including "Lou Gehrig's disease" and myasthenia gravis—affect tens of thousands of people throughout the United

States. The MDA efforts can be found nationwide as well. I am proud to say the Loma Linda University Medical Center in my district has one of two Southern California clinics that serve 1,500 adults and children.

The donations raised by Jerry Lewis for the MDA go much further than treating these diseases. Researchers funded by MDA have discovered a gene that controls one form of neuromuscular illness, and are now conducting tests on what forms of gene therapy might be possible.

It is also through these donations that thousands of children each year can get out of their treatment rooms and go to summer camp, where they enjoy horse-back riding, canoeing and other activities. At one of those camps, in Big Bear Lake in the San Bernardino Mountains in my district, children who spend nearly all of their energy fighting neuromuscular disease can enjoy the great outdoors because MDA is able to pay for a counselor for every camper.

Because he has been a sentimental success for three decades, and because he is very open with his thoughts and emotions, my good friend Jerry Lewis has often not been given the respect he deserves by the national media. But in cities and towns across the country young people, civic groups and many volunteers worked hard to help him make this year's telethon a great success. They know that he is a hero who is dedicated to saving millions of lives.

Mr. Speaker, it is always a delight when I pick up the telephone and hear a buoyant voice say "This is Jerry Lewis, how are you doing?" I enjoy telling tourists who peer into my office: "Of course, I'm the real Jerry Lewis." Sharing a name with someone who gives so much to help millions overcome disease is indeed an honor, and I urge my colleagues to honor this American institution by expressing our gratitude for his efforts.

### 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY UNIT 57

### HON. DAVID MINGE

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 11, 2000*

Mr. MINGE. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to recognize the 75th anniversary of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 57 of Chaska, MN, and its remarkable contribution to supporting our Nation's veterans.

This distinguished unit was chartered in 1925 with 40 charter members. It has since grown to 225 members in 2000, including one Gold Star Mother. What is most amazing about this organization is that they have 13 members who each have over 50 years of service. This totals to over 650 years of membership and dedication.

The unit provides outstanding service to area veterans through several fund-raising events and social activities. They host porkchop dinners for the Carver County Veterans' Van Fund and participate in the Poppy Program which benefits veterans locally and nationally. They also hold bingo socials for residents of the Hastings Minnesota Veterans Home.